GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3663
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2002
METERING OF POWER ELECTRICITY CONNECTIONS
NANDIPAKU VENKATASWAMY

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a policy decision for 100% metering of power/electricity consumption by all individual households in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Power Finance Corporation (PFC) is providing financial assistance to States to undertake metering at concessional rate of interest;

(d) number of States which have completed 100% metering; and

(e) the target date by which all States are likely to complete 100% metering?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA)

(a) : Yes, Sir.

(b) : Considering the importance of metering and reducing transmission and distribution losses, in the Power Ministers Conference held on February 26, 2000, it was resolved to have a time bound programme of 100% metering of all consumers by December, 2001. In pursuance of the decision taken in the Power Ministers Conference, 100% metering programme has been taken up in two phases:

(i) Phase-I : Metering upto 11 kv feeders and HT consumers upto March, 2001.

(ii) Phase-II: Metering of all consumers by December, 2001.

To bring about commitment towards distribution reforms, State Electricity Boards/ Utilities have been asked to sign a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with Ministry of Power as a pre-requisite for release of APDRP funds. Till now 18 states have signed the MoA. In the MoA, it has been stipulated that 100% metering on the LT side of distribution transformers starting with the identified circles within six months from the sanction of loan/ grant and fund availability and that 100% metering of all consumers will be done by December 31, 2002. It has also been stipulated that feeder metering from point of input up to 11kV feeder level shall be completed and made operational within three months from the signing of the MoA, no new connections shall be released without meters and that it would be mandatory to install tamper proof, static/ high precision energy meters for all customers within 7 months of the signing of MoA. For industrial and commercial consumers, the meters shall be with digital interface.

(c) : Financing of electricity metering is of high priority for Power Finance Corporation (PFC). Presently PFC is financing up to 80% of the total cost of exclusively electricity metering schemes. The rate of interest charged by PFC on the high priority schemes is normally lower than the low priority schemes (like thermal generation schemes)

(d) & (e) : As per information available, 15 states have achieved 100% metering at 11 kv feeder level and 10 States have achieved 100% metering at consumer level. Substantial progress has been achieved in metering of industrial/ domestic and commercial consumers. However, metering in respect of agricultural and Kutir Jyoti consumers has been rather slow. The Government is providing funds under the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) for providing meters right up to the consumer level. The PFC is providing financial assistance to states to undertake metering under the counter part funding of schemes sanctioned under the APDRP. The Utilities are working towards the end to achieve 100% metering at consumer level.